

Memorandum

Date: March 20, 1987

To: Director, OPI

From: Evaluator, NSIAD/SIR - H. C. Young

Subject: Press Contact: Afghan Military Aid (CC 87-181)

On March 19, 1987, I received a call from Mr. Rick Whittle, Washington correspondent for the Dallas Morning News. Mr. Whittle was seeking information on a request from Representative Gray that GAO conduct a review of any covert assistance to the Mujahedin of Afghanistan. Specifically, he wanted to know if the letter requests GAO to determine if any funds in this alleged account went to the Contras. I responded that the letter asks for a determination of the amount of any funds diverted and identification of the recipients (whether the Contras or others).

Mr. Whittle also asked several questions about the Federation for American Afghan Action and its leader, Andrew Eiva. I responded that we met with Mr. Eiva a couple of times and that he had promised to provide us with his estimates on the value of articles being received by the Afghan freedom fighters. I noted that the information has yet to be provided and that it would probably be of limited benefit to GAO due to the small size of the data base and because the data is dated.

Mr. Whittle asked me what I thought personally of Mr. Eiva and whether I believed his activities to be genuine or simply a way to cash in on the Afghan resistance movement. I told Mr. Whittle that we had not tried, at this point, to assess the credibility of Mr. Eiva's intentions. Mr. Whittle said that he thinks there might be a good story in Mr. Eiva and his organization and would probably be seeking more information on Mr. Eiva's background.

Mr. Whittle told me that he had been in Pakistan last November accompanying Representative Charles Wilson (D-Texas). Representative Wilson, he noted, is deeply interested in the plight of the Afghan freedom fighters. Mr. Whittle promised to send me the articles he has written on the Afghan resistance movement and said he would contact me again after he talks with Mr. Eiva.

cc: ACG, NSIAD
Director, OP

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Purpose: Press Contact 3/20/87

Source: H.C. Young, GAO/SIR 275-4128